



# Sharples

## SCHOOL

### Newsletter

Issue 466  
2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

#### Eco School News



Thank you to all students, parents, carers and staff who donated textiles, shoes and bags to our “Rag Bag” textile recycling scheme. In total, 305kg was collected, which raised £91.50 for school funds.

In gardening club (pictured), Year 10 students, Ben and Macauley, worked hard clearing overgrown beds, ready to plant with vegetables and flowers in the spring. Harmain and Ryan supervised Year 7 students, who enjoyed planting crocus bulbs, which will flower early in the spring.

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#### Maths in the NHS

But how do we know who gets the next liver transplant?

And how do we know if the work that's being done is the best it can be?

Sickest? Closest geographically? Waited the longest? Best match?

Survival probability

Survival on the list

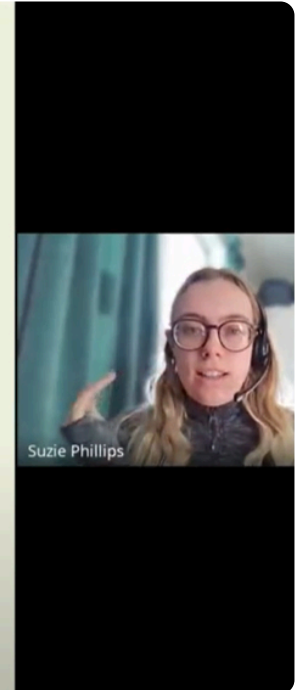
Survival post-transplant

Transplant Benefit Score (TBS)

Months

That's where statisticians come in!

meet.google.com is sharing your screen. Stop sharing Hide



#### NHS Blood and Transplant

NHS Blood and Transplant provides Blood and Transplantation Services, to the NHS:

(blood, organs, tissue, bone marrow, stem cells)

#### Statistics and Clinical Research

##### Organ Tissue Donation & Transplantation

Supports clinical fields with **statistical reporting** and novel analytics, e.g.

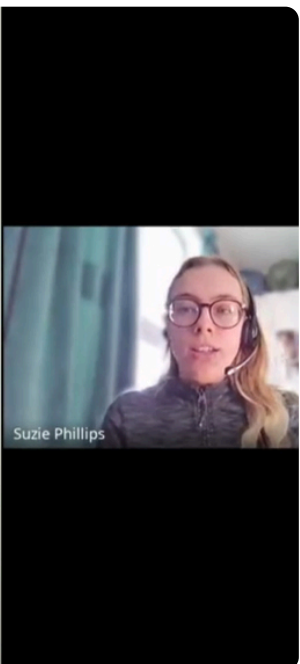
- Annual reporting
- Risk calculation
- Organ allocation algorithms

##### Clinical Trials Unit

Design, conduct, analysis and publication of clinical trials and other studies, in the fields of:

- Transfusion medicine
- Organ donation and transplantation
- and stem cell transplantation

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The Year 10 statistics class had a talk from three NHS Statisticians (one of whom is pictured above) who work in the Blood and Transplant team. They discussed the various ways in which they use maths and statistics everyday in their job and the class could see the real life application of the statistical enquiry cycle.



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#### English Department's Stars of the Week

##### Work of the Week

Year 7

Amaan Y has written a captivating letter on why heroes shouldn't be banned. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 8

Aysha M has brilliantly annotated key quotes from Macbeth. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 9

Samaarah C has shown excellent effort in her narrative writing. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 10

Ayesha M has written a wonderful analysis of the poem Valentine. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 11

Raen H has written a thoughtful guide. [Click here to view the work.](#)

##### Readers of the Week

Year 7

Ibrahim P for growing in confidence when reading aloud & always offering to read in class.

Year 8

Ben L for excellent effort playing different characters in Macbeth.

Year 9

Rayan M for fantastic reading of the character of Catherine in A View from the Bridge.

Year 10

Yusuf I for explaining perceptive analysis in Anthology poetry.

Year 11

Yusuf A for always being enthusiastic to read, and reading with good intonation.



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#### Science Enrichment Newsletter Educake Top Scorers

Well done to all the students who completed their home learning task this week. And a particular congratulations to the following highest achievers, who all scored 100%.

Year 10: Ayesha K and Aashan S.

Year 11: Lawrence S.

#### STEM club

This week in the STEM club pupils were building DNA models. The best design was awarded to Oliver, who managed to capture the double helix shape and base pairs in the picture shown. DNA is a chemical made up of two long strands, arranged in a spiral; this is the double-helix structure. As we learn at KS3, DNA carries genetic information - the genetic code. Watson and Crick, with help from Franklin and Wilkins, discovered the double helix structure of DNA in 1953. Next week pupils begin work on bath bombs!



#### Astronomy Club

Students have been hunting asteroids in astronomy club this week. As asteroids move faster across the sky than other celestial bodies, by comparing pictures taken hours apart, we can identify which points of light have moved and can then pinpoint the location of asteroids. Students learned that by using infrared cameras, we can find even more asteroids. This is important in order to determine if any are heading our way!

#### Science Career of the Week

This week's career is 'Nuclear engineer'. Nuclear engineers have a range of responsibilities, from designing and developing nuclear equipment, such as reactor cores and radiation shielding, to writing operational instructions or examining nuclear accidents. Information about experience opportunities, providers, entry requirements and much more can be found here: [Science career of the Week](#). Please speak to Mr. Burke, who will provide you with more information about this, or any other, science career.

*Mr. Fowlds - Science Enrichment Coordinator*



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#### Sport Leaders Host Glow In The Dark Dodgeball Tournament



A big well done to some of our sports leaders (pictured) who welcomed 6 local primary schools on Tuesday afternoon to take part in a dodgeball tournament with a twist! The lights were switched off and the sports hall was transformed into a glow in the dark arena! The leaders organised and officiated all of the games brilliantly, with primary schools commenting on how well the girls did. Our leaders will be back in action, hosting and officiating a number of different events throughout the year, with the next one in only a few weeks!

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#### Year 7 and Year 8 Netball vs Kearsley



After a few weeks off to allow for the football fixtures to take place, the Year 7 and Year 8 netball teams (pictured) faced Kearsley on Monday night in a friendly fixture before the tournaments begin after half term. The Year 7 team were up first and after a close first half, the girls were leading going into the break through the help of some fantastic centre court play from Grace W. However, it wasn't enough to hang on to the victory and the girls lost out by 2 goals. The Year 8 team were up next and after a slow start, they soon settled and started to play some good netball. The trio of Lorna S, Emily A and Sienna E in the attacking third was a handful for Kearsley to handle. However, unfortunately, the slow start cost the girls and they were unable to make up the deficit. The girls will hope to redeem themselves against Rivington and Ladybridge next week!

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#### KS3 Football vs St Joseph's and Ladybridge



Well done to our KS3 football team (pictured) who braved the awful weather on Wednesday afternoon when they took on St Joseph's and Ladybridge in a friendly triangular fixture before the tournament next week. The girls were quite nervous to face St Joseph's as only a few weeks ago they lost in the league to them, 5-2. However, the girls came out flying and created some brilliant goal scoring opportunities. Ruby M turned into Mary Earps in net and pulled off some unbelievable saves to ensure the game finished a draw. Ladybridge were up next and after 15 minutes, the opposition were leading by a goal to nil. However, the weather took a turn and to ensure none of the students took off, the game was called early, and therefore the girls lost out on a very close (and wet) game! The girls will face Kearsley in a friendly on Monday before taking part in the KS3 tournament on Thursday, next week. Well done, girls!

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#### Year 7 and 8 Basketball Tournament



The Sharples Year 7 and 8 basketball team (pictured) were in outstanding form this week winning all their games in a tournament held at Smithills school. Many of the students have only been playing since joining Sharples but the performance was testament to their superb commitment attending basketball practice every week with ex England youth basketball player Mr Grundy. It was fantastic to see so many different students scoring baskets and their confidence growing with each game. George danced round the opposition and Sharples were clinical in front of the basket making it difficult for opposing teams to compete. A superb team performance and the future looks bright!

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#### Attendance Information

Reporting an absence:

If your child is too ill to attend school, please contact the school before 9.30am with full details of your child's illness/symptoms. The attendance email is the easiest way to contact school as the phone line can get very busy.

The school attendance email is: [attendance@sharplesschool.co.uk](mailto:attendance@sharplesschool.co.uk)

If we are unable to make contact and you do not provide a reason for your child's absence, this absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

#### Attendance Data

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Year Groups attendance this week:

Year 7 = 93.50%  
Year 8 = 94.40%  
Year 9 = 94.12%  
Year 10 = 94.16%  
Year 11 = 92.70%

Best forms this week:

7Shar5 = 97.37%  
8Shar1 = 100%  
9L = 98.42%  
10P = 97.45%  
11S2 = 98.71%

270 pupils have achieved 100% this academic year.

#### Dates for your Diary

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February into the weekend: Sleep at the Deep (Girls Trip)

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February: National Apprenticeship Week

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February: Year 11 Catering Exams

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February: Year 11 MFL Speaking Tests (PPEs)

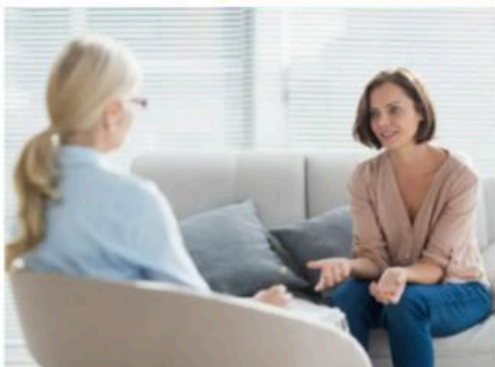
#### Career of the Week: Psychotherapist

*Psychotherapists use talking therapies to help people deal with emotional, behavioural and mental health issues.*

**Average Salary:** £ £35,000 (Starter) to £50,000 (Experienced)

**Typical hours: (per week)** 37 to 42 a week

**You could work:** in your own business managing your own hours



#### Qualifications:

- You can get into this job through a college course or a university course.
- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent including English and Maths.

#### Skills required:

- counselling skills including active listening and a non-judgemental approach
- knowledge of psychology
- the ability to understand people's reactions
- sensitivity and understanding
- excellent verbal communication skills
- active listening skills
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- to enjoy working with other people

#### Relevant Subjects:

- Health and Social Care.

Information sourced from: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/psychotherapist>



Careers & Enterprise  
at Sharples School

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#### PE Lunch Time Clubs - This Half Term

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Y7 Football (Big Astro) - AHM	Y8 Football (Big Astro) - PGR	Y9 Football (Big Astro) - AHM	Y7 Football - (Big Astro) - AHM	Y8 Football (Big astro) AHM
Netball Yr 7/8 (SH) - SCU & LAL	Y7 Dodgeball (SH) - LAL	Just Dance- all years (SH) - SCU	KS3 Dodgeball (SH) - LAL	Y11 Football (Small Astro) - JBA
Y8 Football (Small Astro) - JBA	Y11 Football (Small Astro) - JBA	Y7/Y8 Basketball (Gym) - LAL	Y9 Football (Small Astro) - JBA	Basketball (SH) - LAL
Boccia (Gym) - SCU & LAL	Sports Studies catch up (G32)- AHM	KS4 Boys Fitness Suite - PGR		
		Y10 Football (Small Astro) - JBA		

**WEEK COMMENCING -**  
**5th January**



#### PE After School Clubs - This Half Term

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Yr 7/8 Swimming Club- cancelled	KS4 boys fitness	KS3 Swimming club- cancelled	KS4 boys fitness	No Clubs
KS3 Football @ Kearsley	Y7 football practice	Yr 7 Football tournament @ MUFC	Badminton practice	
KS4 Netball	Yr 8 football practice	Basketball practice	KS3 Football Tournament @ Ladybridge	
KS4 Girls Fitness suite	Y7 and Y10 Netball @ Rivington	Boxing @ Khan's gym		
	KS3 Netball	Y8 and Y9 Netball @ Ladybridge		

• Other fixtures will be arranged throughout the term!



Calling all Y7-10 amazing mathematicians...

# MEM February Half Term Challenge

Deadline Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February

The questions and further details can be found on Student Portal. If you have any questions please speak to Mrs McCawley.



MATHEMATICAL EDUCATION  
ON MERSEYSIDE

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LEVERHULME  
TRUST

P. H. HOLT  
FOUNDATION



Calling all Year 8 amazing mathematicians...

# UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024

If you would like to take part please let your maths teacher know or send an email to Mrs Hart.

Optional lunchtime support session  
every Wednesday in U23



# THROUGH THEIR EYES

POETRY COMPETITION FOR **11-18** YEAR-OLDS



WHOSE POINT OF VIEW  
WILL **YOU** CHOOSE?

YOU COULD BE PUBLISHED AND EVEN  
WIN **£50 AND A TROPHY!**

SEE THIS TEACHER FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Miss Hartley

YOUR ENTRY NEEDS TO BE HANDED IN BY:

16th February

# WRITING AND TALKING SATURDAY CLUB

ARE YOU BETWEEN 13-16 AND INTERESTED IN ATTENDING A WRITING & TALKING SATURDAY CLUB?

MEET WEEKLY AT THE POETRY LIBRARY AT MANCHESTER MET UNIVERSITY ON OXFORD ROAD.

**THE FIRST WRITING & TALKING SATURDAY CLUB SESSION STARTS ON SATURDAY 20TH JANUARY BUT YOU CAN JOIN ANYTIME UNTIL 10TH FEBRUARY. THE GROUP IS FREE AND EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO TAKE PART.**

**SESSIONS START AT 10.30 AND RUN UNTIL 1.30PM.**

**COME WITH A FRIEND OR COME ALONE AND MEET NEW FRIENDS WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS TO YOUR OWN.**

**SEARCH FOR  
MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY NATIONAL SATURDAY CLUB  
TO REGISTER ONLINE**

**WRITE FANTASY FICTION**

**WRITE THEATRE SCRIPTS**

**CREATE FILMS AND PODCASTS**



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MYLOL

AGE RESTRICTION  
13-19

MyLOL is a free social networking and dating site aimed at teens. Profiles can publicly display users' images and information, including sexual orientation and personal interests. The service bills itself as "the number one teen dating website in the world", claiming to have more than a million users globally. Despite its popularity, the MyLOL app is no longer available from Google Play or the App Store, although the site is still active. In some countries, police forces and schools have previously warned parents about "sinister predators" and "inappropriate activities" on the site.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### FLIMSY AGE GATES

Although MyLOL states it is exclusively aimed at users aged between 13 and 19, there is no credible age verification system to prevent a younger child – or an older adult – from signing up to the platform. Coupled with the fact that it's impossible to establish a user's true identity on MyLOL, this raises a serious concern that the site could be used for grooming.

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

MyLOL maintains that it monitors all uploaded images for nudity or sexual content. It also claims to be able to detect suspicious keywords. However, there have been numerous reports of explicit content being found on the platform, with users often posting provocative, semi-nude pictures of themselves and engaging in flirty or sexually explicit conversation.

### POTENTIAL CYBER-BULLYING

MyLOL lets users 'vote' on other people based solely on their appearance, much in the same vein as the now-defunct site Hot or Not. This feature could easily lead to distress and bullying, especially if a young person's profile pics receive an unfavourable response. Various reviews of MyLOL have noted that bullying frequently becomes an issue in the platform's chat groups and private messages.

### IN-APP SPENDING

MyLOL is free to join and use, but it also offers paid-for memberships. Users who have paid money get their profile promoted at the top of the site and in search results. They can also earn additional credits for increased engagement with the platform – such as sharing, replying to messages and voting. At the time of writing, the monthly membership fee was \$9.95 (just under £8).

### DATA COLLECTION

According to its privacy policy, MyLOL collects user data including email addresses, contact details and interests. While the company says it is committed to protecting users' privacy, the small print states that information may be shared externally. MyLOL claims to follow procedures to keep data secure, but does not specify what these procedures are, or whether such information is encrypted.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

MyLOL makes it easy to connect with strangers. In fact, the site's rewards feature encourages users to send private messages to people they don't know. There have been several media stories of adults posing as teens on MyLOL to connect with minors, which could lead to extremely dangerous situations, such as a young person meeting up with someone who has been posing under a false identity.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### DISCUSS ONLINE DATING

It's vital to talk to your child about the possible dangers of platforms like MyLOL – particularly the threat of online predators. Remind them of the risks of sharing intimate images and information with strangers and emphasise that most people don't realise they're being 'catfished' until it's too late – it really isn't wise for a young person to meet up with someone they've only spoken to online.

### EXPLAIN PRIVACY RISKS

Before your child begins using a service such as MyLOL, it's important that they understand the potential pitfalls of giving out their personal data on this type of platform. Explain to them, for example, that they shouldn't divulge any personally identifying information to people who they don't know, as scammers can be quite convincing when attempting to steal someone's identity.

### RESTRICT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child has access to a bank card or other payment method, they may be enticed into signing up for MyLOL's premium features. Having their profile boosted and receiving more attention could be especially tempting if their friends also use the site. You could consider altering their device's settings to disable internet purchases, or at the very least keeping an eye on their online spending.

### SET UP LOCATION ALERTS

If you're worried that your child may be planning to meet up with someone they've met on MyLOL, you could consider utilising GPS or WiFi location tracking technology to follow their whereabouts in real time. You can even set up a virtual boundary or 'fence' and opt to receive an alert to your phone if your child enters or exits a specified area.

## Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



The National College

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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# WIZZ

AGE RESTRICTION

12+

12+ App Store  
Teen Google Playstore

Wizz is a networking app which allows users to connect and chat with other people around the world. Its principle is similar to a dating platform: users have a profile with up to three photos, along with optional interests and hobbies tags. This allows other like-minded people to be recommended in searches. If a user likes what they see on someone's profile, they can initiate conversation through the instant message feature; otherwise they swipe on. The app does use age verification technology when an account is created and groups users by age.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### OVER-SHARING

Immediately after setting up an account, users start receiving friend requests (mainly from the opposite gender). For many young people, this will be exciting and a boost to their confidence. As young people tend to be more trusting online and may believe what others tell them, however, this can lull them into dropping their guard and revealing personal information to strangers.

### CATFISHING AND PREDATORS

Wizz uses Yoti, a digital ID system, to verify users' age. The AI only detects approximate age, though – so an older person who looks younger could be grouped with teens (or vice versa). Also, profile pics on Wizz don't have to match the face of the person who did the initial age verification: it would be fairly easy to create a fake account using another person's photos with a made-up name and age.

### EXPLICIT CONTENT

During our research, conversations on Wizz very quickly turned sexual. Users frequently suggested 'taking it to Snap' (Snapchat's disappearing image feature can make it conducive to sharing explicit selfies), connecting on other social media, swapping nude or semi-nude pictures, or holding sexual chats. These users created an impression of the platform being sleazy and unsafe for young people.

18

MEET STRANG

### INTIMATE IMAGES

It's not unheard of for young people to be coaxed into sending suggestive images of themselves over apps of this kind. Given that Wizz connects users with strangers, who may not be honest about their real intentions, a teenager might conceivably be persuaded to share sexually suggestive selfies by someone who they believed they had a trusting relationship with.

### NO PARENTAL CONTROLS

The app claims to provide a secure and inclusive environment, but our researcher couldn't find any parental controls or safety features in evidence. If you report another user for inappropriate behaviour, you are offered the option to block them – but there's no indication as to whether the block has actually been successful, and there was no follow-up contact from the developers.

### SECRETS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Wizz sent our researcher occasional 'mystery' friend requests from a blurred-out profile. To discover the sender's identity, users can either watch a video (usually an ad for a game or app) or take out a monthly subscription. Cynics might suggest this could be a way to exploit young people's curiosity into making them pay for the app, and that the 'secret admirers' are bots rather than real people.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TALK IT OUT

If your child has downloaded Wizz, talk to them about why they like it and who've chatted with. Have they shared any personal details with this person or connected with them on other social media platforms? Refresh your child's memory of the various risks that can arise from engaging with strangers online and get them to consider using a similar app with more robust safety features.

”

### BE SUPPORTIVE

When connecting with strangers on apps like Wizz, seemingly innocent chats can quickly progress to become sexually explicit and lead to nudes being sent. Make sure your child knows to come to you if they're uncomfortable about anything they've been sent or been asked to send. If they've already shared something that they now regret, reassure them that you'll support them no matter what.

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Young people are far more inclined to see the good in others; they often overlook the fact that scammers set up fake accounts on apps like this with the intention of getting money or personal data. Remind them that not everyone online is who they claim to be, how easy it is for someone to create a bogus profile, and why it's vital to think twice about sharing anything on networking apps.



### KEEP THINGS TRANSPARENT

It might feel awkward, but regular chats about your child's online life can be beneficial. If they seem suddenly anxious or secretive around their phone or tablet, they may have something they need to get off their chest. You could also consider not allowing digital devices in their bedroom, especially overnight – that's when a lot of the riskier conversations on apps like Wizz tend to take place.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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Source: [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=info.wizzapp&hl=en\\_GB&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=info.wizzapp&hl=en_GB&gl=US) | <https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/sexual-offences/sexortion/>

# Early Help

# Parenting Drop-in

For  
all families  
with children  
under 18

We know that being a parent is not always easy and that families need extra support at some stage as children grow up.

Targeted Early Help Workers will be on hand to offer advice and support.

We can offer signposting to helpful services, organisations and community groups.

Poor school attendance?

Are they being excluded from school?

Are they anxious or struggling with self-esteem?

Are you struggling with your child's behaviour?

Not sure what services there are available that can help to support you?

Come and join us for a cup of tea and a chat if you want any advice or information about parenting.

**Drop-in sessions, 9.30am - 3.30pm**

Farnworth King St Centre 20 Jan 10 Feb 2 Mar 23 Mar 20 Apr

Oxford Grove Children Centre 6 Jan 27 Jan 17 Feb 9 Mar 6 Apr 27 Apr

Tonge Children Centre 13 Jan 3 Feb 24 Feb 16 Mar 13 Apr



**For more information please contact:**

Targeted Early Help Tel: 01204 337390

Email: [earlyhelp@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelp@bolton.gov.uk)

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